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Municipal E-News

Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS)

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5-1-2010

## Municipal E-News: Issue 14: May 2010

MTAS

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### Recommended Citation

MTAS, "Municipal E-News: Issue 14: May 2010" (2010). *Municipal E-News*.  
[https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk\\_mtasnews/38](https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtasnews/38)

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Claiborne County Courthouse

## City Spotlight: Tazewell

*Tazewell is the county seat of Claiborne County and was created as such in 1801. Although no major battles of the Civil War were fought in Tazewell, a serious fire broke out in the town in 1862 which destroyed approximately "20 buildings including the courthouse, a large hotel, and several brick storehouses."*<sup>1</sup>

**Date of Incorporation:**  
1801

**Population:**  
2,226

**County:**  
Claiborne

**Grand Division:**  
East

**MTAS Municipal  
Management Consultant:**  
Margaret Norris  
[margaret.norris@tennessee.edu](mailto:margaret.norris@tennessee.edu)

<sup>1</sup> Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture

The University of Tennessee  
**Municipal Technical Advisory Service**  
600 Henley Street, Suite 120  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4105  
Phone 865-974-0411  
Fax 865-974-0423  
<http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu>

## Renewable Energy Outreach by the City of Jackson and TREEDC

Warren Nevad, MTAS Municipal Management  
Consultant and TREEDC Executive Director



TREEDC and the city of Jackson held a clean energy workshop for community leaders, businesses and farmers on Tuesday, April 13 at the University of Tennessee West Research Center. Jackson Councilman Ernest Brooks II/TREEDC Advisory Board Member and MTAS Management Consultant/TREEDC Executive Director Warren Nevad crafted the curriculum of biofuels and renewable energy power systems for this inaugural workshop sponsored by Jackson Energy Authority and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce. More than 60 attendees from 20 cities, 16 counties and seven states attended the workshop which focused on developing new markets for renewable energy development in West Tennessee.

Chris Disher, Business Development Manager for Flex Fuel U.S. highlighted their firm's successful efforts in converting the Chicago, Illinois public works department's older vehicles to flex fuel vehicles while reducing greenhouse gases for its fleet. Russell Beals, Vice President with Biodiesel Logic discussed the Hoover, Alabama model program in collecting waste vegetable oil and converting it to biodiesel. He announced that Clarksville recently opened a similar process with the assistance of TREEDC. Greg Martin with the Boone Pickens Clean Energy Group demonstrated successful approaches used in Maryland and Virginia to convert garbage trucks into compressed natural gas vehicles. Dr. Don Tyler of the University of Tennessee reviewed the university's partnership with Genera Energy to grow a new energy crop in Tennessee.

Steven Maupin, President of Diversified Renewable Energy Systems of McKenzie urged cities and counties to consider their municipal wood waste as a decentralized green energy source for public facilities. Christopher Charlton of Greenway Renewable Energy informed the audience about the potential of wind energy and shared the successful story of the Wisconsin wind energy toolbox. Chad Payne with Solar & Renewable Power Systems of Jackson described the various incentives for solar energy use by small businesses. TREEDC President and Pikeville Mayor Greg Johnson was awarded an

(Continued on page 4)

## ***MTAS ... Looking Toward the Future... Succession and Sustainability***

### **MTAS Masters in Public Administration Intern Successes**

We are proud of our interns from the MTAS Masters in Public Administration intern program:

- **C. Seth Sumner** has been hired by Clifton as their city manager.
- **Chris Shults** was this year's recipient of the Lee S. Greene award. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in Public Administration at the University of Tennessee and was established to honor the memory of professor and former head of the department from 1946-1971, Lee S. Greene.

Congratulations! The future of public service is bright indeed!

### **MTAS Post-graduate Masters in Public Administration Internship Available to Your City**

***Looking for some capable, eager, and well-educated assistance for short-term projects?***

MTAS offers an post-graduate internship program that places graduating University of Tennessee Masters of Public Administration (MPA) students with cities. In this program students gain real world experience working in cities under the careful guidance of MTAS consultants. Cities gain the assistance of these capable and eager students on projects.

For more information on the MTAS post-graduate MPA internship, please contact MTAS Municipal Management Consultants Ron Darden (Middle Tennessee) at [ron.darden@tennessee.edu](mailto:ron.darden@tennessee.edu) or 615-532-4942 and Margaret Norris (East Tennessee) at [margaret.norris@tennessee.edu](mailto:margaret.norris@tennessee.edu) or 865-974-9063.

### **2010 ICMA Southeast Young Professionals Leadership Institute: Two Perspectives**

***Tracy Baker, MTAS Post-graduate Management Intern***

Thanks to MTAS, I was able to recently attend the 2010 International City/County Management Association Southeast Young Professionals Leadership Institute in Nashville. It was wonderful to see how many other young leaders are starting their careers in various capacities throughout our region, and how many diverse perspectives will have a voice at the table in the years to come. It was a perfect reflection of the books we discussed with the ICMA President, Bob O'Neill. We discussed the book *True North* by Bill George which uses over 125 interviews with top executives to argue that there is no single way to become an ideal leader. We also discussed Geoff Colvin's *Talent is Overrated*, which insists that individuals are not born to be great leaders, but become leaders gradually through deliberate practice and experience—great news for young soon-to-be-managers like myself!

We spent a great deal of time examining how our life experiences and individual preferences have shaped our emerging visions and organizational perceptions. It is amazing how adept we can be at understanding the directions and intentions of others if we only stop to listen to the personal reflections that seep through conversations over time.

This was my first time networking with city leaders from outside of Tennessee and it was a great experience. It is so easy to fail to look beyond our own area and familiar acquaintances for advice and counsel but I quickly realized that communities all over the southeastern U.S. are experiencing many of the same challenges and opportunities as our Tennessee cities.

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***Margaret Norris, MTAS Municipal  
Management Consultant***

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

On April 14 and 15, 2010, ICMA held a Young Professionals Leadership Institute in Nashville. The institute is geared for young professionals with master degrees in public administration who are just starting their careers. I do not fit that mold, having been with MTAS for nine years after working for several cities, but I attended in hopes of being able to recycle information with the interns and students that I work with on campus. I would like to share a few observations from that conference.

First, as tech savvy as this generation is, I was amazed at the absolute absence of texting and stepping out to accept phone calls that I typically witness in other conferences. These young professionals were there to learn and to absorb as much as they could. They embodied the concept of “wherever you are, be there” that so many of us toss aside to multitask.

As an extension of the first observation, there was very little “subgrouping” or chatting amongst participants while a speaker was presenting. Again, this reinforces the notion that these attendees were fully absorbed in the material and were eager to learn. It also demonstrated to me that they showed great respect to the speaker.

Finally, while all the individuals came from a variety of backgrounds with a myriad of histories that shaped who they are and how they came to be interested in public service, the desire to “do good” was strong among them all. It was refreshing and gave me great hope for the future of public administration.

For more information on ICMA programs, please visit their Web site at <http://icma.org/main/sc.asp>

## Study of High Fire Mortality Rate in Tennessee

*Melanie Purcell, MTAS Interim*

*Executive Director*



Tennessee has been ranked in the top five nationally for fire deaths for many years without a clear-cut explanation. While the usual suspects including lack of fire alarms, low income and low education have been identified as playing a role, none of these factors truly explain the consistent ranking in fire deaths. To begin investigating the high fire death mortality rate, MTAS hosted an inaugural meeting of a steering committee which will guide the development and application of research into this problem.

This kick-off meeting as well as the project itself are historic in bringing together members of local government, university researchers and staff, state and federal officials as well as members of the renowned FireTeamUSA based in Brentwood, Tennessee. MTAS and CTAS are partnering with Dr. David Folz of the University of Tennessee political science department to staff the research project and assemble the available data from all sources. A preliminary report is anticipated in the fall.

Twenty-five people were able to attend the April 2010 meeting and over 50 have been invited to participate in the ongoing project. Funds for the initial phase of the study have been provided by the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, the Tennessee Fire Inspectors Association and MTAS.

For more details or to join in this effort, please contact Gary West, MTAS Fire Management Consultant at [gary.west@tennessee.edu](mailto:gary.west@tennessee.edu) or 865-974-9843.

## Additions to the MTAS Library

### Sample of City Codes Regarding Chickens

*Margaret Norris, MTAS Municipal Management Consultant* | [View](#)

### Fowl Ordinance Comparison

*Town of Signal Mountain* | [View](#)



[Click here](#) to read the complete list of new additions.

## Retail Economic Development: MTAS Pre-Conference Session at TML Annual Conference



June 12, 2010 | 1–5 p.m. | Gatlinburg

For more information contact the MTAS Knoxville office at 865-974-0411.

## **Municipal Court Clerk Conference: March 2010**

*Sarah Holley, MTAS Training Coordinator*

In March 2010, 178 court clerks, recorders, police chiefs and judges gathered in Franklin for the fourth annual Municipal Court Clerk Conference. This conference has



continued to grow over the four years MTAS has coordinated the program. The conference is made possible through a partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide training that will fulfill the state mandated three hours per designated court clerk.

The 2010 conference brought change this year as the first day of the conference included three concurrent sessions in order to reduce classroom size and facilitate access to the instructors for questions. Conference evaluations showed concurrent sessions were one of the most liked pieces of the conference. Topics in the concurrent sessions included a presentation by MTAS' Karen Beyke on the "Legal Authority of the Municipal Court," "Video Traffic Enforcement (Debunking the Myths)" by Sgt. Bill Stormet and Sgt. Bill Vahldiek of Gallatin as well as "Effective Communication in the Workplace" by MTAS Training Consultant Kurt Frederick. The second day of the conference the Tennessee Department of Safety offered an update on court action reports and electronic reporting which is always a crowd favorite.

If you missed this year's spring conference, don't worry! MTAS offers two opportunities for statewide training of court clerks per year with the conference in the spring and a four-hour workshop in the fall that is delivered in multiple locations across the state. Keep an eye on our Web site for more information on the fall training.

*(Continued from page 1)*

educational grant from Penny Judd and Paul Phelan of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) allowing TREEDC to develop a Web site consisting of educational portals for citizens and businesses to discover best practices in renewable energy.

Councilman Brooks expressed his appreciation to TREEDC for affording area farmers tools to practice sustainability measures with their land. (Go to [page five](#) for information on a middle Tennessee forum to be held in Franklin on June 8, 2010.)

Contact [warren.nevad@tennessee.edu](mailto:warren.nevad@tennessee.edu) or 865-974-9839 for more information on TREEDC.

## **Generational Differences in Today's Workplace**

*Melanie Purcell, MTAS Interim Executive Director*

There are currently up to four individual generations active in the work force today. This creates unprecedented communication and interpersonal relationship challenges as well as opportunities as there are specific behaviors and attitudes associated with each age group.

The four most commonly referred to groups are the "Traditionalist," "Boomers," "Gen-Xers," and "Gen-Yers/Millennials." Each generation reflects influences from individual backgrounds such as: regional culture and incidents; urban, suburban or rural childhood; education; and the socio-economic environment.

Strategies for meeting the challenge of an intergenerational workforce include: awareness of the outstanding events that influenced specific generations as well as those that influence individuals; redefining appropriate from the recipients point of view; and avoiding assumptions about age, race and gender being defining characteristics.

For more information on this topic, contact the MTAS Library at 865-974-9842 or search the library catalog online at: <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/nbbks.nsf/CatMain?ReadForm>



## From the Attorney General ...

Josh Jones, MTAS Legal Consultant

### Corporate Expenditures on Political Donations

A recent U.S. Supreme Court case stated that there is no legitimate governmental interest justifying a ban on corporate expenditures on political donations. Hence, T.C.A. § 2-19-132, which prohibits corporations from making independent expenditures for the purpose of aiding or defeating a candidate, is likely unconstitutional. (*Opinion No. 10-30*)

### Exceptions for the Issuance of Citations

When a person is cited for a misdemeanor in an officer's presence, generally that person is not arrested. However, if "a reasonable likelihood exists that the arrested person will fail to appear in court" that person can be arrested. A "failure to satisfy a traffic citation" on the person's drivers license history does not necessarily meet this standard. Prior conviction for the same offense does not meet the standard of "a reasonable likelihood...that the offense would continue or resume..."

(*Opinion No. 10-31*)

Attorney general opinions can be found on the Web at <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/>.

## Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council

Middle Tennessee Meeting  
June 8, 2010



The June 8 workshop of the TREEDC will be held at The Factory in Franklin, Tennessee. Topics covered include solar and renewable energy best practices of local governments in Tennessee, alternative energy production and the 2011 legislative platform of TREEDC.

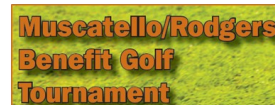
Please RSVP to [warren.nevad@tennessee.edu](mailto:warren.nevad@tennessee.edu) and mail the registration fee of \$25 (includes refreshments and lunch) to the City of Pikeville, P.O. Box 225, Pikeville, TN 37367 by June 1, 2010. Seating is limited.

Please check the [MTAS Web site](#) for meeting agenda.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Eagle's Landing,  
Sevierville, TN

Wednesday, June 9, 2010



IPS' annual golf tournament benefits the Muscatello/Rodgers Local Government Internship Endowment at the University of Tennessee. The endowment supports scholarships for students who are studying public administration, finance, communications, engineering or other related fields, and are interested in pursuing a career in local government. Scholarship recipients work in summer internships with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), agencies of the Institute for Public Service.

The endowment memorializes Paula Muscatello's commitments to education, and to loving and supporting her family. The scholarship also honors the memory of Bill Rodgers, a long-time employee of CTAS whose dedication to improving local government was an inspiration to many.

For information on registering a team or sponsoring the tournament, please contact Paul Bowman, Development Director, Institute for Public Service, at [paul.bowman@tennessee.edu](mailto:paul.bowman@tennessee.edu) or 865-974-6587.

## National Public Works Week May 16–22, 2010



Brett Ward

Sponsored by the American Public Works Association since 1960, this week is set aside "to recognize the important contributions of public works infrastructure, facilities and services, and their very important role to the quality of life of the people of the US and Canada."

For more information visit the [APWA Web site](#).

## 2009 MTAS Salary Survey Available

The 2009 MTAS Salary Survey is now available.

To generate a report, use your MTAS-provided survey password to access the database. Once logged onto the site, click on the option to go to "Reports." For more information on accessing the database, contact Justin O'Hara, MTAS IT Consultant at [justin.ohara@tennessee.edu](mailto:justin.ohara@tennessee.edu) or 865-974-0628.

## Thank You for Your Comments on the Municipal E-News

April 2010 was the one year anniversary of the *Municipal E-News* and we asked your opinion of our newsletter. Many of you completed our survey and the information provided is very helpful to us. Thank you for your time. And always feel free to send us your suggestions and comments regarding the *Municipal E-News*.

### New MTAS Publications

#### Tennessee Reservists Leave of Absence

*Bonnie Jones, MTAS Human Resource Consultant*

Effective July 1, 2007, the number of paid days for public employee military reservists was increased from 15 to 20.

[View publication](#)

#### Municipal Management Academy Open Enrollment

Municipal Management Overview (MMA01)

Communication Skills and Behavioral Styles (MMA02)

Jackson	May 5
Collegedale	May 18
Knoxville	May 19
Johnson City	May 20

#### Certified Municipal Finance Officer Program

Spring Hill	May 25
Athens	June 1
Jackson I	June 2
McMinnville	June 2
Morristown	June 8
Jackson II	June 9
White House	June 9

For more information on these and all MTAS classes, visit our Web site at <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu>.

### Calendar of Events



#### May 3-9

Public Service Recognition Week

#### May 9-15

National Police Week

#### May 14

Health Care Reform Update (Sherrill Morgan; Nashville)

#### May 16-22

National Public Works Week

#### May 18

4th Annual MidSouth Economic & Business Development Summit (Martin)

#### May 19

TnPRIMA Middle Tennessee Regional Meeting (Brentwood)

#### June 12-14

Tennessee Municipal League Annual Conference (Gatlinburg)

#### June 24

Government Health Roundtable Workshop (Bristol)

#### June 24-26

Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference (Louisville, KY)

*"Municipal E-News"* is provided by the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service in an effort to meet the challenge of providing timely, valuable information and assistance to Tennessee cities to build better communities.

If you have any questions or comments related to this newsletter please contact Frances Adams-O'Brien at [frances.adams-obrien@tennessee.edu](mailto:frances.adams-obrien@tennessee.edu).